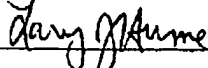


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Signature (Larry J. Hume)

Docket No.: 21806-00143-US
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Thomas G. Ference et al.

Conf. No.: 4002

Application No.: 09/985,693

Art Unit: 2822

Filed: November 5, 2001

Examiner: David E. Graybill

For: ULTRA-FINE CONTACT ALIGNMENT

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 8, 2005

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Final Office Action dated December 8, 2004 (Paper No. 20041201), the following remarks and arguments are submitted in connection with the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Claim Amendments begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

No fees are believed to be due with this amendment.